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NEWMARKET RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridgeshire

and the Isle of Ely

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

for

1966

P. K. SYLVESTER,

M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.(Obst.)R.C.O.G.

Medical Officer of Health,

Newmarket Rural District Council,

Shire Hall,

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Tel No : Cambridge 58811



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GENERAL STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £567,508 (1.4.67).

Sum represented by a penny rate for the year 1966-67: £2,243.

Estimated number of inhabited houses: 8,202.

Estimated mid-year Home Population: 22,040.

Census Population 1961: 20,879.

Birth Rate	17.4
(Corrected)	17.7
Death Rate	9.8
(Corrected)	9.1
Infant Mortality Rate ..	8.0

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN

Councillor A. F. Gathercole.

COUNCILLORS

E. Cooper Bland.
R. S. T. Bowden, Dip. Bact., M.R.C.V.S.
J. H. Budden.
F. S. Fuller.
Rev'd. J. B. Goodchild.
Mrs. S. Horwood-Smart.
Col. D. R. B. Kaye, D.S.O., J.P.
H. Palmer, J.P.
J. G. A. Paul.
E. J. Pollard.
R. B. Taylor.
L. G. Warren.
Mrs. M. West.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:	P. K. Sylvester, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.(Obst.)R.C.O.G.
Chief Public Health Inspector:	D. Howells, F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspectors:	F. H. Mason, A.R.S.H. J. Townsend, A.R.S.H.
Clerk:	Mrs. S. E. Morley.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Newmarket Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1966, prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 1/1967, dated January, 1967.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated population increase in 1966 (320) was practically the same as for the previous year. The birth rate was virtually the same as for last year, the corrected rate being the same as the national birth rate for the year. The uncorrected death rate for 1966 was 1.6 per 1,000 population below the rate for 1965, and well below the national death rate for the year. In fact, it is probably the lowest death rate (uncorrected) recorded for this district. It is also pleasing to record that all the rates relating to infant mortality were lower in 1966 than in the previous year.

Infectious Diseases.

In contrast to last year's high figure, there were only 41 notifications of Measles in 1966. The figures for Whooping Cough showed a marked rise on the previous 2 years. This increase in Whooping Cough notifications is in keeping with a recent national trend, and the fact that the 5 to 9 year age group is most affected has been noted in the 1966 returns for neighbouring County Districts also. Only 4 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified.

Two cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified during the year and four came to our notice through the Public Health Laboratory. Routine advice prevented any spread beyond the families concerned. In one incident where two affected children of pre-school age were attending a nursery play group, closure of the group for one week appeared to prevent any further spread of infection. Three cases of Salmonella-type food poisoning were notified during the year (2 cases in one family).

I am pleased to report that only one new case of respiratory Tuberculosis was notified, though the number of cases on the register remained the same. The proposed Mass Miniature Radiography Survey at Soham, referred to in last year's report, was carried out towards the end of September. No new cases of active Tuberculosis were discovered, though several other important chest conditions requiring observation or treatment were brought to light. 67% of the population concerned attended the Survey and this is a measure of the hard work put into the preparations for it. My thanks are due to Dr. Smith, the Director of the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit, and her staff and also to those many Soham people who gave so generously of their time in order to help.

Sanitary Circumstances.

The Council continued their policy of building bungalows for the elderly in order to release more of their underoccupied houses for younger persons and their families on the Council house waiting list. 42 dwellings were built during 1966, 27 of them being bungalows. At the time of writing a further 33 bungalows have been built. In addition the grouped old persons' bungalows at Wither's Place, Fordham, are due for occupation in the very near future. This is the third of the Council's "Warden controlled" schemes and it departs a little from the other two schemes in providing separate bungalows as opposed to flats. A kitchen is also provided which can be used by the meals-on-wheels service when this eventually operates in Fordham.

The Chief Public Health Inspector refers to the Denington Report which was published at the end of the year. If its recommendations are adopted we shall have to take stock anew of the properties within this district, and it may well behove us to look ahead on these terms. At the same time, the modernising of council and private houses continues within the district.

The situation regarding meat inspection can be regarded as satisfactory. The department regards the inspection of food premises and the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations as one of the most important aspects of their manifold duties. In general, the number of visits to food and licensed premises have been maintained. In this connection, visits were also paid to village halls and community centres within the district where refreshments are served; the response has been quite encouraging and some improvements have been done.

Mr. F. W. Sanders has once again kindly furnished us with some details from his report to the Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board. The schemes for improving the water supply to this district are being steadily developed and particular reference in this respect is made to the village of Ashley. Mention is also made of the advice and assistance given by the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspectors. This department has always been willing to co-operate with the Water Authorities and it is pleasant to record the cordial relationships which exist between us and the Water Board's officers.

The sewerage of the outstanding villages continues and the Chippenham Scheme is now completed. Good progress has been made on the Isleham, Reach and Swaffham Prior Schemes which were started towards the end of 1966 and early in 1967. The Kirtling Scheme has been submitted to the Ministry, whilst Schemes for Ashley, Woodditton and Wicken are in various stages of preparation. Reference is made in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report to the necessity for sewerage of the remaining parishes where new development is taking place, and to the difficulties that arise when development takes place over clay subsoil in unsewered areas.

The weekly refuse collection continues to be maintained and the acquisition of a "Pakamatic" vehicle during 1967 should be a great asset. The refuse disposal pits are given careful attention, particularly with respect to rodent control.

Work on the implementation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 continues.

In common with the rest of East Anglia, this district underwent a large increase in the rat population during the winter of 1966/67. One case of Weil's Disease in a farmer came to our notice, but paradoxically enough investigation of his premises did not reveal any obvious rat infestation.

The department has been concerned with certain complaints from persons living near to piggeries. With the advent of more residents into the countryside it seems that some review of planning requirements are needed in this respect.

Once more it is a very great pleasure to record my thanks to Mr. Howells and all the members of the public health department for the manner in which they have carried out their work during the year.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee I extend my thanks for their continued interest and support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

PETER SYLVESTER.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

(The mid-year home population is used for the statistical calculations).

Live Births.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	186	184	370
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	5	14
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	195	189	384
Birth rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	17.4
Birth rate corrected by comparability factor (1.02)								..	..	17.7
Birth rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	17.7
Still Births.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
Rate per thousand live and still births								..	..	10.3
Rate per thousand live and still births (England and Wales)								..	..	15.3
Deaths.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110	105	215
Death rate per thousand estimated population								..	..	9.8
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (0.93)								..	..	9.1
Death rate per thousand population (England and Wales)								..	..	11.7
Infant Mortality. Deaths of infants under one year of age.								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)

(Deaths of infants under four weeks of age are shown in brackets).

Infant Mortality rate (Infant deaths under one year per thousand live births)	..	..	..	5.2
Infant Mortality rate (England and Wales)	..	..	..	18.9
Neonatal Mortality rate (Infant deaths under four weeks per thousand live births)	..	..	..	5.2
Early Neonatal Mortality rate (Infant deaths under one week per thousand live births)	..	..	..	5.2
Perinatal Mortality rate (Still births and deaths under one week combined per thousand live and still births)	..	..	..	15.5
Legitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand legitimate live births	..	..	..	5.4
Illegitimate Infant Mortality rate per thousand illegitimate live births	..	..	..	Nil
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	3.6%
Maternal deaths (Deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per thousand live and still births	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	36
Deaths from tuberculosis (all ages)	..	..	..	1
Deaths from whooping cough	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from measles	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from pneumonia	..	..	..	15
Deaths from influenza	..	..	..	2
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	..	Nil

CERTAIN COMPARATIVE RATES.

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
*Birth Rate	14.5	15.1	15.6	14.4	16.9	15.8	17.8	17.6	18.4	17.3	17.4
*Death Rate	10.4	10.4	10.6	10.9	11.5	11.7	11.5	11.2	10.6	11.4	9.8
Infant Mortality Rate	17.1	19.6	16.2	17.5	5.9	15.1	18.6	32.3	5.1	8.0	5.2
	(5)	(6)	(5)	(5)	(2)	(5)	(7)	(12)	(2)	(3)	(2)

*These rates are uncorrected. (The figures in brackets are the number of infant deaths in each year).

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

								MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 4 weeks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
4 weeks and under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
1 and under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	—	2	2
5 and under 15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
15 and under 25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
25 and under 35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
35 and under 45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4
45 and under 55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	6
55 and under 65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	8	27
65 and under 75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	20	54
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	68	114
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110	105	215

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health.

“The Cambridgeshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Order 1951” provides for the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health to the Chesterton, Newmarket and South Cambridgeshire Rural District Councils. As from April 1st, 1965 this officer was also appointed Deputy County Medical Officer to the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely County Council.

Public Health Inspectors.

During the year Mr. Howells continued as Chief Public Health Inspector assisted by Mr. Mason, and Mr. Townsend.

Laboratory Facilities.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, undertake bacteriological and biological examinations of milk and bacteriological examinations of water samples, and all necessary examinations in cases of infectious diseases.

Hospitals.

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to Cambridge City Isolation Hospital.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (Infectious Disease) REGULATIONS, 1953.

No action has been necessary relating to “Carriers” of food poisoning infections.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT, 1960.

To date this Council has not received notice of any persons or firms within this district who are keeping or using radioactive material.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 31 (as amended).

Meals on Wheels.

The meals-on-wheels service provided at Soham and Burwell has continued, and the same is also true for the service provided at Bottisham through the W.R.V.S. Our thanks are once again due to all those persons who have given up some of their time to make this possible.

Section 47.

No action was necessary under this Section during the year.

Section 50.

No action was necessary under this Section during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS, 1966.

Age in Years	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis		Dysentery	Measles	Totals
			Paralytic	Non-Paralytic			
Under 1 year	-	1	-	-	-	4	5
1 —	-	3	-	-	-	5	8
2 — ..	-	2	-	-	1	8	11
3 — ..	1	4	-	-	-	4	9
4 — ..	-	1	-	-	-	10	11
5 — 9 ..	3	10	-	-	-	7	20
10 — 14 ..	-	4	-	-	-	3	7
15 — 24 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	4	25	-	-	2	41	72
1965 TOTALS	9	6	-	-	1	646	662

Age in Years	Acute Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Para- typhoid	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Totals
Under 5 ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 — 14 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 — 44 ..	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
45 — 64 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
1965 TOTALS	3	-	1	2	-	-	6

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1. Number of Cases on Register at commencement of year ..	32	22	5	5	37	27
2. Number of Cases notified for first time during year under Regulations—	—	1	—	—	—	1
3. Cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Cases added to Register otherwise than by notification under Regulations—						
(a) Transferred from other Districts	—	1	—	—	—	1
(b) From Death Returns	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Number of Cases removed from Register	2	—	—	—	2	—
6. Number of Cases remaining on Register at end of year .	30	24	5	5	35	29

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION. RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS CASES ON REGISTER AT 31.12.66.

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Grand Total
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	
0 — 15 ..	3	1	1	1	4	2	6
16 — 25 ..	1	—	10	1	11	1	12
26 — 35 ..	2	—	4	1	6	1	7
36 — 45 ..	9	3	8	—	17	3	20
46 — 55 ..	6	1	1	1	7	2	9
56 — 64 ..	7	—	—	1	7	1	8
65 and over ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
TOTALS ..	30	5	24	5	54	10	64

TUBERCULOSIS.

One case of respiratory tuberculosis was notified for the first time during the year. One case was transferred to the district which previously had been notified in another area. At the end of the year the number of respiratory and non-respiratory cases on the register remained the same as in 1965.

REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

D. HOWELLS, F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.,
Chief Public Health Inspector, Newmarket Rural District Council,
Council Offices,
Park Lane,
Newmarket.

Tel. No : Newmarket 2362.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1966:—

Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	881
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Food Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955	..	..						251
Canteens and Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
Food Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Miscellaneous Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	224
Shops (Under Offices and Shops Act)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	289
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	170
Infectious Disease Enquiries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	123
Drainage and Sewerage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	794
Sewage Disposal Plants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Caravan Sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	280
Dwellinghouses (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	785
Re Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	152
Water Supply (excluding visits for sampling)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Nuisances (including re-visits)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	160
Noise Abatement	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Animal Boarding Establishments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Dangerous Buildings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pests Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	243

Total .. 4,736

Number of Samples taken:—

Drinking Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	121
Other Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Ice Cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Specimens Collected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	103
Informal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77

PARISH STATISTICS.

Parish	Acreage	Population (1961 Census)	Rateable Value at 1.4.67.	No. of Council Dwellings	1d. Rate Product 1966/67
ASHLEY	2,225	465	£ 7,465	82	30
BOTTISHAM ..	2,854	975	44,980	134	181
BRINKLEY	1,303	204	6,270	28	24
BURROUGH GREEN	2,272	289	4,396	40	18
BURWELL	7,010	2,734	119,670	275	484
CHEVELEY	2,559	1,624	42,338	71	163
CHIPPENHAM ..	4,301	366	7,423	20	24
DULLINGHAM ..	3,387	520	10,228	54	39
FORDHAM L.A. }	4,331	1,709	44,605	185	178
FORDHAM N.L.A. }			422		2
ISLEHAM	5,230	1,392	21,984	148	87
KENNETT	1,431	340	17,054	43	62
KIRTLING	3,126	357	5,798	23	22
LODE	3,133	607	11,316	69	44
REACH	1,134	269	3,339	22	13
SNAILWELL ..	2,034	216	4,924	16	19
SOHAM	12,999	5,077	128,762	548	516
STETCHWORTH ..	2,891	514	14,502	55	58
SWAFFHAM BULBECK	4,110	633	12,797	94	50
SWAFFHAM PRIOR	4,889	634	10,808	78	40
WESTLEY	1,149	165	2,139	6	8
WICKEN	3,965	655	9,750	45	39
WOODDITTON ..	4,768	1,134	27,221	61	106
GAS					-
ELECTRICITY					
DISTRIBUTION			9,317 }		36 }
ELECTRICITY					
GENERATING					- }
TOTAL ..	81,101	20,879	£567,508	2,097	2,243

HOUSING

Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

DEMOLITION & CLOSING ORDERS.

(1) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17, Housing Act, 1957	26
(2) Unfit houses closed under Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957	5
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957..	—
(4) Houses on which Demolition Orders were made	35

REPAIRS.

HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.

(5) After informal action by Local Authority	46
(6) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority	Nil
(7) After formal notice under Housing Act, 1957	
(a) by owner	Nil
(b) by Local Authority	Nil

ACTION TAKEN DURING THE POST-WAR PERIOD.

Parish	Demolished		Outstanding Orders on Existing Houses			Parts of Buildings Closed	Purchased by N.R.D.C.	D.O's etc. Cancelled
	Houses	Hutments	D.O's	C.O's.	U/T.			
ASHLEY ..	15	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
BOTTISHAM ..	44	12	—	1	1	—	5	15
BRINKLEY ..	11	—	—	—	1	—	9	—
BURROUGH GREEN ..	17	—	—	—	1	—	13	—
BURWELL ..	46	—	2	2	6	—	—	10
CHEVELEY ..	14	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
CHIPPENHAM	4	—	2	—	—	—	2	1
DULLINGHAM	30	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
FORDHAM ..	28	—	5	—	—	—	—	2
ISLEHAM ..	37	—	13	4	2	—	—	4
KENNETT ..	8	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
KIRTLING ..	5	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
LODE ..	13	—	2	1	1	—	—	1
REACH ..	8	—	2	1	—	—	—	1
SNAILWELL ..	4	37	—	3	—	—	—	2
SOHAM ..	84	—	13	3	8	6	—	3
STETCHWORTH	9	—	—	1	—	—	4	—
SWAFFHAM								
BULBECK	14	—	4	2	2	—	—	4
SWAFFHAM								
PRIOR ..	15	—	8	—	3	—	—	1
WESTLEY								
WATERLESS	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WICKEN ..	15	—	3	1	2	—	—	—
WOODDITTON	21	—	2	2	—	—	4	3
TOTAL ..	446	49	57	22	31	7	45	50

New Dwellings.

180 houses were built by private enterprise during the year and the Council built the following dwellings:—

(a)	Old Persons' Bungalows	..	..	..	27
(b)	Other Dwellings	..	..	..	15
	Total	..			42

At the end of the year the following Council-owned dwellings were in course of construction :

PARISH			BUNGALOWS	HOUSES	FLATS
Burwell	..	..	10	—	—
Fordham	..	..	14	6	1
Isleham	..	..	8	—	—
Swaffham Prior	..	..	3	—	—
Bottisham	..	..	11	—	—
Totals	..		46	6	1

At the time of writing this report 33 of the above bungalows and the flat had been completed and occupied.

NEW DWELLINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS

Year	By the Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	Total
1957	36	59	95
1958	52	85	137
1959	36	34	70
1960	37	67	104
1961	68	84	152
1962	36	100	136
1963	33	145	178
1964	64	211	275
1965	62	244	306
1966	42	180	222
Total	466	1,209	1,675

Building Regulations.

The new Regulations, which superseded the Building Byelaws, came into operation in February and should do much towards improving building construction standards throughout the country. Interpretation problems have inevitably cropped up but architects, surveyors, public health inspectors, building inspectors and others will solve most of their difficulties by liaison, attention to detail when submitting plans, and a close scrutiny of the technical press. The Building Research Station and the British Standards Institution, as always, are particularly helpful in maintaining consistency in methods and materials. The Regulations place great stress on fire precautions in new buildings but the number of statutory inspections while work is in progress has not been increased. It is submitted that no roof should be covered in until the supporting members, be they timber rafters, angle iron trusses or steel joists, have been passed by the local authority inspector following proper notification. The testing of drains following backfilling is a notable improvement and parts F. & G., covering thermal and sound insulation, are of particular importance but it is unfortunate that a better standard of lighting and ventilation cannot be called for in domestic kitchens.

Housing of Old People.

As reported in previous years, this social problem is kept under constant review and the 27 Old Persons' Bungalows built this year makes a total of 101 provided in the last three years. The grouped old persons' bungalows scheme at Wither's Place, Fordham progressed satisfactorily and will be completed before this report is circulated. The Council has proposed that another grouped old persons' bungalow scheme, warden controlled, should be constructed at Cheveley and it will be recalled that the Old Persons' Units at Soham and Burwell were built six years and four years ago, well in advance of most small Local Authority proposals.

On the debit side, it must be reported that at least 59 cottages, which were regarded as beyond reconditioning at a reasonable expense, were occupied by old persons at the end of 1966. But can we, as health officers, expect these old folk, in the twilight of their lives, to move from their homes against their wishes?

Standard of Fitness.

Towards the end of the year "Our Older Homes—A Call for Action" was published by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This 57 page book is a report of the Sub-Committee on standards of housing fitness under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Evelyn Denington, C.B.E., G.L.C., Hon. F.R.I.B.A.

The report makes some very interesting observations and the minimum standard of fitness provides food for thought in a rural area. It is recognised that the ultimate standard of fitness, including bathrooms, etc. will take a number of years to achieve and a reduced minimum standard is advocated until the country's extensive slum problem is reaching a conclusion. Many rural cottages fall below the minimum standard although a considerable number can be retained and improved. It is not proposed to repeat the summary of conclusions and recommendations published by the Sub-Committee, which the Council considered, but Paragraph 50, on the grounds of its importance, is summarized below:—

"In the Sub-Committee's view, to be habitable a dwelling should:—

- (a) be in a satisfactory state of repair
- (b) be free from progressive instability
- (c) be substantially free from damp
- (d) have adequate natural lighting to each habitable room
- (e) be provided with adequate means of ventilation throughout
- (f) have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on in the dwelling
- (g) have a satisfactory system for the drainage and disposal of foul and surface water
- (h) have a suitably located and satisfactory sanitary convenience for the exclusive use of the occupants, with access under permanent cover
- (i) have adequate and suitably ventilated provision for the storage of food, a suitable sink with cold water supply and impervious draining surface, and either a satisfactory built-in cooker or a gas or electricity connection for a cooker
- (j) be free from internal bad arrangement
- (k) have a satisfactory installation providing adequate artificial lighting, by gas or electricity if reasonably available.

A dwelling should be regarded as unfit if it is so far defective in respect of any one of these matters or in respect of any combination of two or more such matters, that it is not reasonably suitable for occupation."

Council Houses.

The Council's Surveyor, Mr. M. E. Moore, is responsible for the management of 2,097 Council houses but rent collections fall within the duties of the finance department. Housing applications continue to be dealt with by the lady Housing Advisory Officer, along with the differential rent scheme and social problems.

It is fair to say that the appearance of Council estates, during the past decade, has improved out of all recognition. No longer will stereotyped "little boxes" be accepted and some private developers would do well to take a walk round West Drive, Soham or Vicarage Close, Swaffham Bulbeck before preparing their schemes. Even our pre-war houses, which were built on a shoe string, have taken on a new look with their colour washed walls and varied colour schemes. Unfortunately, there will always be the thoughtless tenant who is determined to ruin the panorama by unsightly structures, litter, garden neglect and irresponsible car parking and we can but hope that education will produce the desired result.

IMPROVEMENTS:

The following figures indicate the progress which has been made in providing the older type of Council houses with bathrooms and piped hot and cold water.

Number of formerly unmodernised houses	..	..	..	..	706
Provided with modern amenities by end of year	..	..	..	..	640
Remaining to be improved	..	..	..	..	66

Now that public sewers are in course of construction at Isleham and Swaffham Prior, one can look forward to modern amenities in all pre-war houses during 1968.

Housing Improvements—House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Act, 1964.

The Public Health Inspectors follow closely on the heels of sewerage contractors and the Council can be proud of the fact that, apart from the 640 Council houses which have been modernised, Discretionary and Standard Grants have been paid towards the cost of modernising 949 private dwellings since the scheme came into operation. This amounts to almost 16% of all pre-war houses.

The following statistics give further details:—

(a) Number of houses on which Improvement Grants were paid:—

	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Discretionary Grants	.. 33	37	54	44	49
Standard Grants	.. 35	44	48	48	58

(b) Amount Paid in Grants:—

Discretionary Grants	.. £10,430	£10,830	£15,180	£12,355	£13,798
Standard Grants	.. £6,315	£7,633	£6,819	£5,929	£7,574

(c) Number of Properties improved since the Act came into force:—

Discretionary Grants	..	..	..	..	..	653
Standard Grants	..	..	..	..	..	296

(d) Amount Paid on (c):—

Discretionary Grants	..	..	..	..	..	£158,139
Standard Grants	..	..	..	..	..	£42,564

(e) Average Discretionary Grant during 1966 £316 per house Average Standard Grant during 1966 £180 per house

All dwellings are inspected by the public health inspector, owners are advised and architects, surveyors or builders are met on site to discuss proposals. This forms part of the work of clearance or improvement of unfit properties and is well worth the effort. The Surveyor deals with costing and assessment of grant. No Housing Improvement Areas have been declared under the very cumbersome provisions of the Housing Act, 1964.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Six new licences and eight renewals were granted during the year and licensed sites throughout the district now cater for 83 caravans.

Four applicants were refused planning permission but one applicant was granted permission and a site licence at a later date following the submission of revised proposals covering the stationing of 16 residential vans. Work has commenced on this site.

A survey of sites known to be used for the stationing of residential caravans was made during the year and the following data is extracted from the comprehensive report made to the Council:—

RESIDENTIAL CARAVANS (EXCLUDING GYPSIES AND OTHER ITINERANTS)

Occupants	No. of Vans
One Adult	12
Two Adults	44
One Adult and one child	1
Two Adults and one child	21
Three Adults and one child	1
Two Adults and two children	6
Two Adults and three children	1
Total Vans	86
Total Occupants	198

Excluding itinerants, 22 of the above caravans were discovered on unlicensed sites. Thirteen occupiers had applied or wished to join the housing list and nine families had been rehoused from caravans during the last twelve months.

REASONS FOR LIVING IN A CARAVAN:

As far as could be ascertained the occupants fell within the following groups:—

(a) Young couple who married and moved straight into a caravan ..	48 families
(b) Young couple who started living with relatives or in lodgings and wished to have one's own home	2 „
(c) Worker transferred from another area	4 „
(d) Middle aged or elderly retired persons	7 „
(e) Person who finds it essential to live in close proximity to isolated place of work	6 „
(f) Person who prefers caravan living	12 „
(g) Other groups	7 „

It was evident that many newly married couples favour a separate home in a modern caravan but where more than one child was born, conditions became unsatisfactory.

NEED FOR A COUNCIL CARAVAN SITE.

It appeared that caravan dwellers generally had no wish to live on a Council site with modern amenities and only eight occupants expressed any interest.

Rent Act, 1957.

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair under the provisions of the Act.

Clearance of Unfit Dwellings.

Twenty six unfit dwellings were recorded as demolished and five houses were closed during the year; fifteen families were rehoused by the Council.

The following details were submitted during the year:

Total number of scheduled and occupied unfit dwellings		108
Above occupied by housing applicants		21
Outstanding or pending Demolition or Closing Orders on occupied unfit dwellings		35
Unfit dwellings occupied by young persons		12
Unfit dwellings occupied by old persons		59

The House Letting Committee gave this report full consideration with encouraging results.

DEMOLITION PROCEDURE.

An interesting problem arose when the Council was informed that the owner of four unfit vacant cottages was incapable of handling her own affairs. Time and Place Notices could not legally be served. After a very long delay, her Solicitors applied to the Court of Protection for the owner's affairs to be administered by her son.

In the meantime, the properties, which abutted the public footpath, became dangerous and the Council brought pressure to bear by serving Time and Place Notices on the son on being satisfied that he had power to act on behalf of his mother. Demolition in default was not possible until the resulting Demolition Order had become operative and in the meantime the owner's son made his own arrangements with a demolition contractor. More delays followed and the Council was subjected to some entirely uncalled for press publicity. However, the sequel was the cottages were demolished and two excellent building sites have become available.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Slaughterhouses.

The five licensed slaughterhouses continued with a steady throughput and all animals and offals were inspected and carcasses stamped in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. No charge is made for these inspections and all meat is apparently for consumption within the rural area.

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations came into operation on the 30th September, 1966 and among other things, empowered local authorities to fix hours of slaughter at private slaughterhouses. Having regard to the limited throughput and the co-operation from licence holders, the Council has not found it necessary to exercise this power. Meat must no longer be removed from a slaughterhouse until it has been inspected by an authorised officer. In the interests of uniformity, brown ink is now used for inspection marks.

It will be noted that, apart from one pig, tuberculosis was not discovered throughout the year. The Divisional Veterinary Officer is informed forthwith if and when this disease is found and the matter is taken up at the farm of origin.

Two carcasses have been submitted to deep freeze, following the discovery of C. Bovis cysts but no generalised infections have ever been detected.

No statutory action has been necessary during the year but informal approaches relating to default under current Regulations are made from time to time.

**Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part
during the Year 1966.**

	Cattle not Cows	Cows	Calves	Pigs not Sows	Sows	Sheep and Lambs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	477	3	4	1,942	67	950	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:—							
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	84	2	1	166	5	9	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	17.6	66.6	25.0	8.6	7.5	.9	—
Tuberculosis only:—							
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	.05	—	—	—
Cysticercosis:—							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat and Offal Condemned.

	Bovine	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Complete Carcases	—	1	—
Heads	4	5	—
Lungs	2	23	1
Livers	53	129	8
Half Livers	22	3	—
Hearts	1	29	1
Mesentery	1	6	—
Kidney	2	—	—
Hocks	—	19	—
Skirt	1	—	—
Trimming etc.	441 lbs.	33½ lbs.	5 lbs.

Other foods condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

217½ lbs. of Meat at Schools and Shops.

7 tins of Canned Meat.

8 tins of Other Food.

343 items of frozen foods.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

In response to circular 1/67, paragraph 8(c) the following details are submitted:

Premises to which the Regulations apply.

Category	Number of Premises	Complying with Reg. 16 (hand washing facilities)	Reg. 19 applicable (equipment washing, etc.)	Complying with Reg. 19
Bakehouses	9	9	9	9
Butchers	13	13	13	13
Grocer and General	65	65	60	60
Fish and Chips	3	3	3	3
Cafes and Snack Bars	4	4	4	4
Sweets and Confectionery	7	6		
School and L.A. Kitchens	10	10	10	10
School Meals	18	18	18	18
Hotels	1	1	1	1
Factory Canteens	3	3	3	3
Licensed Premises	69	69	69	69
Racecourses	2	2	2	2
Miscellaneous	5	5	5	3
Totals ..	209	208	197	195

The number of visits paid to food premises will emphasize the importance placed upon this branch of the public health inspector's many duties. Shopkeepers know the inspector is available in an advisory capacity and are fully aware of the fact that clean food, displayed under attractive conditions, means good business. Poor premises and a lack of modern equipment results in rising labour costs if a satisfactory hygiene standard is to be maintained.

There was a breakdown in one frozen food cabinet which resulted in the condemnation of 343 items of foodstuff. This rarely happens and owners are strongly advised to insure against the contingency.

Although complaints from the general public are very rare, one complaint relating to a slug found in a packet of frozen peas was received. The manufacturers were a national and reputable firm, with very high standards, and they immediately gave the matter their attention.

VILLAGE HALLS AND OTHER COMMUNITY CENTRES.

These public buildings are now put to considerable use for activities ranging between bingo sessions, youth clubs, wedding receptions, dances, women's institutes and other functions. Refreshments are usually served although cooking does not normally take place on the premises.

The following deficiencies were recorded at the 17 premises which are in regular use:—

No piped hot water	14
No separate washbasin	8
No piped hot water to washbasin	4
Inadequate or unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation	2
No W.C. for males	1

Hall Committees were contacted in all cases resulting in the following improvements:—

Piped hot water installed	4
Washbasins fitted	2
Sink units fitted	4

Adequate hand washing facilities were requested at two men's clubs which are not included in the above figures.

Ice Cream.

Nine samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. Six samples were reported as Grade 1 and three samples as Grade 2.

A large builder's workshop at Lode was taken over by an ice cream distributor and, following essential improvements, was registered for the storage of ice cream. Soft ice cream mix is supplied by a reputable manufacturer and equipment is sterilized by hypochlorite on the premises. Wrapped ice cream, stored in modern refrigerators, provides an excellent and safe food but, hand washing by ice cream salesmen is continually stressed and vehicles must be provided with washing facilities.

Registered Food Premises.

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

(a) Sausage and Cooked Meat Premises	..	..	..	..	21
(b) Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	3
(c) Premises used for the storage and sale of ice cream	..	..			77
(d) Premises used for the manufacture of ice cream	..	..			1

Six new registration certificates were issued during the year and two hundred and fifty one visits were made to the above premises. No premises are registered unless they comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Milk.

All milk production is under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and only designated milk is allowed to be retailed in the area. Twenty one dairy farms are registered.

Poultry.

There are no poultry processing premises within the district and no birds have been condemned as unfit for human consumption. Poultry dressing takes place at butchers' premises at certain times of the year and occupiers have been instructed on the importance of keeping meat and poultry operations entirely separate. Inspections have revealed generally good quality birds.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district and no samples have been submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test.

Licensed Premises.

Seventy seven inspections of licensed premises have been made during the year and attention was paid to glass washing facilities, food hygiene, sanitary accommodation and general construction. With three exceptions, all public houses are provided with water-borne sanitation and there has been a general raising of standards over the past ten years. The serving of meals is on a fairly small scale, only three tenants being known to supplement their sales to any extent.

Bakehouses.

In spite of strong competition from multiple organizations, nine village bakehouses continue to produce excellent bread and confectionery. Eighteen visits were made to these premises to ensure that the usual standard was being maintained.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-1958.

Twenty two slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year but not all the holders are actively engaged in slaughtering. No action was necessary under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966.

All traders who were likely to use vehicles for the sale or delivery of food were circulated in September and provided with a brief summary of the above Regulations which came into operation on 1st January, 1967. More information will be available in next year's report.

Knacker's Yard.

There are no licensed knackers' yards in the area.

WATER SUPPLY

All parishes are provided with a piped water supply, except for some isolated farms and cottages where private bores are in use. The Ely, Mildenhall and Newmarket Water Board is the statutory undertaker and their Engineer, Mr. F. W. Sanders, has been good enough to provide the following observations in his Annual Report:—

“It was again unnecessary to impose any restriction on the use of water this year, but during the short spell of hot weather the supply was rather uncertain and deficiencies occurred in a few areas where the mains were too small. The above average rainfall of 1965 and 1966 has replenished the underground resources depleted by the previous four dry years.

Progress has been made on the two major schemes of Woodditton (Lower Links) and Beck Row. The former will be in use in part by the summer of 1967 and should assure the supply to Newmarket and the southern part of the Board's area for some years to come. The Beck Row scheme will not be available until 1968 and it is anticipated that there may be difficulties in the supply to the Ely Rural District in the coming summer.

Water schemes take seven to ten or more years to bring about and it is impossible to keep ahead of changes in planning policy in building development and in water requirements which take place comparatively quickly. There is every likelihood of houses and factories being ready for occupation before water supplies are available and it behoves planners and developers to consult water authorities at the earliest possible stage in their proposals. Most of the delays are administrative and might well be removed by a streamlining of procedure.”

Swaffham Prior and Bottisham Pumping Stations.

“The 8-inch and 10-inch diameter main from Swaffham Prior to Bottisham is complete and this area can now be supplied from both sources. However, the demand has increased to a point where it is seldom possible to supply the whole zone from either source operating alone.

A number of complaints were received of discoloured water in this area. A coating of a light rusty deposit has built up on the inside of the mains over the years ; small pieces of this coating are easily dislodged and disperse into the water in a brown cloud. When valves and hydrants are operated the water sometimes becomes brown and turbid.

In an attempt to prevent the water becoming discoloured the mains in this supply area are being swabbed by the new technique of forcing foamed plastic swabs through the mains by water pressure. The operation has been slow as it involved much alteration to the mains to install points where the swabs could be inserted and removed. The principal mains in Burwell and Reach have been swabbed and it is proposed to treat the mains in the rest of this supply zone as quickly as possible. It may be that a second treatment will be necessary but this could be completed much quicker once the “swabbing points” have been installed.

This water contains about 0.08 parts per million of iron which is so little that it would be disregarded were it not for this tendency to accumulate in the mains.”

Chippenham Pumping Station.

“Water from this station is now pumped to the three linked reservoirs at Warren Hill where it is combined with the water from Southfields and supplies Newmarket and five parishes to the north of Newmarket. Water from the reservoirs is also pumped by the Duchess Drive booster station to three small water towers on high land in the South of the Newmarket Rural District and supplies ten parishes.

The small pumping station at Saxon Street has been run regularly during the year and although it can yield no more than about 50,000 gallons per day this small amount has been useful in keeping up the supply to the three water towers in hot weather.

By the end of the year the pumping station at Lower Links Covert was completed and machinery was being installed. The 10-inch pumping main to Ditton Green and the 12-inch and 10-inch distribution mains had been laid and the new water tower at Ditton Green which would replace the three small towers was well under way.

The supply in the village of Ashley was very poor during the summer and arrangements have been made to improve this by laying a new 8-inch main from Duchess Drive.

Some complaints were received of low pressures at Brinkley but any trouble here should be remedied by the new tower and 10-inch main from it."

Consumption ranged between the following figures:—

	Chippenham Pumping Station	Swaffham Prior Pumping Station	Bottisham Pumping Station	Saxon Street Pumping Station
Maximum Average Daily Consumption	Gallons 627,200 (Sept.)	Gallons 107,333 (April)	Gallons 148,967 (Dec.)	Gallons 36,000 (Sept.)
Minimum Average Daily Consumption	377,645 (Dec.)	73,452 (July)	60,000 (Feb./Mar.)	550 (Nov.)
Average Daily Consumption over the year	559,715	98,937	94,154	9,088

Medical Supervision.

"The Board is indebted to the Medical Officers of Health of the district Councils and the Public Health Inspectors for advice and assistance in matters of health and hygiene; also to the Director of the Public Health Laboratory and his staff.

During the year each of the Board's employees engaged on waterworks was given a routine medical examination supervised by the Medical Officer of Health of the district Council."

Sampling.

Samples are taken for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory.

Water Sampling during 1966.

Sample	Main Supplies		Private Supplies		Total
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Bacteriological	108	-	5	8	121

Monthly samples are taken direct from the source at the Chippenham, Swaffham Prior, Bottisham and Saxon Street pumping stations by the Water Board and, apart from two doubtful samples, were reported as satisfactory.

The unsatisfactory samples from private wells were dealt with as follows:—

Extension to Public Mains—To accommodate five houses.
Owners informed re two houses.

Very few householders carry water from public standpipes which are rapidly disappearing in the wake of sewerage schemes. There is still, however, a small proportion of dwellings where an outside tap is the only source of supply and piped hot water is beyond the reach of many old persons on small incomes.

Typical Results of Analysis of Public Supplies.

Test	Chippenham	Swaffham Prior	Bottisham	Saxon Street
Physical Characters	Good	Good	Good	Good
Reaction	pH 7.1	pH 7.6	pH 7.9	pH 7.2
Parts per 100,000.				
Chloride	1.8	25.0	13.4	2.7
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.003	0.020	0.017	absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	absent	absent	absent	absent
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37°C. . .	0.040	0.010	0.010	0.020
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.0	0.07	absent	0.23
Nitrite Nitrogen	absent	absent	absent	absent
Poisonous Metals	absent	absent	absent	absent
Total Hardness	28.0	9.0	6.0	31.5
Iron	absent	0.008	0.008	0.045
Fluoride	Less than 0.01	0.01	0.03	Less than 0.01
Bacteriological Examination.				
Coliform organisms in 100 mls. ..	nil	nil	nil	nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 37°C.	nil	nil	nil	nil
Number of micro-organisms per ml. developing at 21°C.	nil	nil	nil	nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The main parts of the following parishes are now sewered:—Bottisham, Burwell, Cheveley, Chippenham, Dullingham, Fordham, Lode, Soham, Stetchworth, Swaffham Bulbeck, Woodditton (Part adjoining Newmarket town only).

The above areas cover approximately 70% of the population of the total rural district.

Chippenham Scheme.

This scheme was nearing completion at the end of the year and came into operation early in 1967.

Isleham, Reach and Swaffham Prior Schemes.

By the end of the year work on the Isleham scheme had commenced and the other two schemes followed early in the new year.

Kirtling Scheme.

This scheme was prepared by the Council's Engineer and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The Minister's Inspector has visited the area and discussed the scheme with the Council's Officers.

Ashley.

All pre-war Council houses in Ashley have been provided with bathrooms and water closets in advance of the sewerage scheme which is in course of preparation by the Council's Engineer. This scheme involves part of Cheveley. Congestion on very limited sites in this village calls for some priority.

Woodditton.

A sewerage scheme in this parish is urgently required. Out of 190 dwellings in the main part of the village, no less than 83% have water closets and bathrooms, which, except for 14 dwellings connected to a plant, drain to cesspools and septic tanks in a clay subsoil. The result is heavily polluted ditches and a public health nuisance. The Council has agreed to give priority to the scheme following a full report from this department. In the meantime, new housing development continues!

Wicken.

A preliminary survey was carried out in this parish and the following details submitted to the Council in support of a sewerage scheme:—

	Private	Council	Total
Number of Dwellings Recorded	153	39	192
Provided with Water Closets	71 (47%)	39 (100%)	110 (57%)
Pail Closets	80 (52%)		80 (42%)
Vault Cloests.. .. .	2 (1%)		2 (1%)
No Fixed Bath	76 (50%)		76 (40%)
No Washbasins	83 (54%)		83 (43%)
No Sink	31 (20%)		31 (16%)
No Indoor Water Supply	31 (20%)		31 (16%)
No Constant Hot Water	66 (43%)		66 (34%)

It was agreed that this scheme should be prepared with as little delay as possible.

Soham Fringe Areas.

Residents of Broad Piece, The Shade and the Commons still await the provision of a public sewer but all one can report at present is successful policy negotiations with the County Planning Department on the future of the areas. The Council's Consulting Engineers are doing their best to meet the demands of parish representatives.

Remaining Parishes.

Wherever new development takes place, sewage disposal should receive top priority. Septic tanks may function if adequate and suitable land is available for effluent disposal but the accepted watertight cesspool, as required by the Building Regulations, provides a working capacity of only 40 days for a modern family dwelling. Transportation of sewage by tanker at frequent intervals is an extremely poor substitute for a sewerage scheme and should be avoided at all costs.

We are grateful for the close liaison which exists between the Engineer's and Public Health Departments and from these remarks it will be deduced that a sewerage scheme is essential in all populated parts of the district, but one cannot add irrespective of cost.

Closet Conversions.

Under the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 4 closet conversions were completed and contributions amounting to £100 were paid to owners.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection of Household Refuse.

The year ended 31st March, 1967 saw the first full 12 months of the new bonus scheme and although 222 new dwellings were constructed and 114 additional loads of refuse were collected, the nett cost of the service increased by only £24 over the previous year. Three Shelvoke & Drewry fore and aft vehicles, manned by three drivers and nine men, performed the task of a weekly collection of refuse from 22 parishes covering 82,000 acres, a service which householders have known since 1959. By

operating a simple bonus scheme, the men enjoy a larger wage packet, less labour is required and ratepayers will be pleased to know that the cost per load has fallen from £9 4s. 9d. per load to £8 11s. 4d. If all loads were weighed, costs could be based on tonnage but weighing facilities are not always accessible. Fortunately, there is a very low sickness rate among the men and the department manages to operate with practically no reserve labour. A 35 cub. yd. Shelvoke & Drewry "Pakamatic" compressor type refuse vehicle was demonstrated in one of the more populated areas and a firm order was placed with the manufacturers for delivery of a similar model during March, 1967.

Refuse Disposal.

Two dumps are used at Woodditton and Reach and although the methods are somewhat unusual the tips are well consolidated and free from pests. The Council's Rodent Officer pays particular attention to the tips and, although there was a sharp increase in the rat population at the end of the year, control has been good. Regular spraying with Malathion solution is carried out during the summer months. A more satisfactory method of disposal will require the Council's careful consideration if the occasional complaints from Reach residents are to be avoided and having regard to the constantly increasing quantity of bulky refuse. Bulldozing and consolidation is carried out by a private contractor for the sum of £360 per annum.

Litter Act, 1958.

It is submitted that this Act is almost ineffective. There are too many loopholes in the Act and the £10 maximum fine should be increased tenfold.

Village litter baskets are emptied by the refuse collectors and layby receptacles are cleared by the highway staff employed by the County Council. The land adjoining a layby at Bottisham is often used as a dump by itinerants.

Scrap Metal.

Four special collections of scrap metal were made, following full publicity in the villages concerned, and over 11 tons was sold for the sum of £28 9s. 11d. Householders welcome this opportunity to clear out the old bedsteads, bicycles and other metal junk from the back gardens, and it adds support to the "Keep Britain Tidy" campaign, but the disposal of old furniture and other bulky refuse calls for special attention.

Salvaged Materials.

The following materials were baled and salvaged at the Burwell Depot:

Material	Year ended 31st March, 1967			Year ended 31st March, 1966		
	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.
Waste Paper ..	105 10 0	648	5 10	123 1 0	826	11 1
Ferrous Metals	2 11 0	15	6 0			
Non Ferrous Metals	9 0	30	5 3	10 0	50	10 0 -
Rags and Sacking	2 9 3	56	8 5	2 15 3	55	3 6
Sundries		9	0		6	5 0
Miscellaneous Iron	27 8 2	46	13 7	13 7 3	33	9 5
TOTALS	138 8 1	797	8 1	139 14 2	971	19 0

The selling price of waste paper was reduced to £5 10s. 0d. for mixed waste and £6 0s. 0d. for newspaper. All men shared a waste paper bonus of £302.

Cesspool Emptying.

One annual free clearance is available on request from householders in unsewered areas and this applies to septic tanks on Council estates. 447 free clearances were carried out during the year and

second visits are charged at the rate of £1 0s. 0d. per load. In sewered areas, the charge was raised to £2 0s. 0d. per load. The 1,100 gallon tanker is also used for the regular desludging of small sewage treatment plants but the disposal of sewage presents a problem at certain times of the year. The existing sewers cannot be used for this purpose and tipping on pasture land is prohibited. The Council does not operate a nightsoil collection.

Chargeable work came under the following headings:—

Private Householders	£548
Housing Management	£995
Sewerage	£255
	£1,798

The sharp decrease in costs will be noted from the statistics below.

Clearances during the year ended 31st March, 1967.

Private		Council		
Cesspools cleared	Loads	Cesspools cleared	Sewage plants	Loads
677	814	427	112	1,251

Statistics for the year ended 31st March, 1967 compared with previous year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

	March 1967	March 1966
Total Mileage	32,600	32,495
Refuse Collected—loads	1,539	1,425
Nett cost of service	£13,184†	£13,160
Cost per load—collection and disposal	£8 11 4	£9 4 9
Annual cost per 1,000 population	£599 5 5	£605 17 11
Vehicle Costs—including repayment of loans, etc.	£2,837	£2,912
Cost per Mile	1s. 9d.	1s. 10d.
Vehicles—actual running costs—	£1,902	£1,600
Vehicles—actual running costs—cost per mile.. .. .	1s. 2d.	1s. 0d.
Fuel consumed:— gallons	3,109	2,863
Average mileage per gallon:—		
Derv	10.5	11.35
Income from salvage sales NETT	£489 *	£554 *
*After deducting men's bonus		
†Including £340 Retirement Gratuity		

Cesspool Emptying.

Total Mileage	13,581	13,000
Cost of Service	£2,226	£3,021
Number of loads cleared	2,066	2,401
Cost per load—collection and disposal	£1 1s. 7d.	£1 5s. 2d.
Fuel consumed—gallons	1,234	1,233
Fuel consumption per load—gallons	0.59	0.51

Chargeable work amounted to £1,798.

Deficit to General Rate £428.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

At the end of the year, 100 premises, employing 328 persons, were entered in the public health department's register, as detailed below:—

Table A—Registrations.			
Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	No. of premises deleted from register during year	Total number of registered premises at end of year
Offices	2	2	20
Retail Shops	13	8	70
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	—	—	1
Catering Establishments open to the public, canteens	1	2	7
Fuel Storage Depots	—	1	2
Totals ..	16	13	100

B. Number of Visits of all kinds to registered premises 289

Table C—Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.	
Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	73
Retail Shops	203
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	33
Catering Establishments open to the public	16
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage Depots	3
Total	328
Total Males	128
Total Females	200

Table D—Informal Notices served during 1966.

Section of the Act	Number of Informal Notices	Outstanding Notices
4. Cleanliness	1	5
5. Overcrowding	Nil	3
6. Temperature	10	3
7. Ventilation	3	12
8. Lighting	11	12
9. Sanitary Conveniences	2	7
10. Washing Facilities	Nil	10
11. Drinking Water	1	1
12. Accommodation for Clothing	1	1
13. Sitting Facilities	1	Nil
14. Seats for Sedentary Workers	Nil	1
15. Eating Facilities	Nil	Nil
16. Floors, Passages and Stairs	4	6
17. Fencing of Machinery	Nil	1
24. First Aid Provisions	6	1
49. Notification of Employment	Nil	Nil
50. Information for Employees	2	1

Reminders have been despatched to occupiers where outstanding notices have not been complied with but, in the absence of statutory standards on lighting and ventilation, persuasion is no doubt the best approach under these particular sections of the Act.

The general response has been good, no doubt due to the fact that the public health inspectors were already familiar with the shops, particularly food premises, within the area.

One establishment employs 42 persons but the number of employees at other registered premises is generally very low with the exception of one wholesale/warehouse establishment where 22 persons benefit from the provisions of the Act.

It would be appropriate to mention here that family businesses, where other than close relatives are not employed, are not registered under the Act. Also, the Act does not apply where a part time assistant is employed for less than 21 hours per week.

EXEMPTIONS.

No exemption certificates have been applied for during the year.

ACCIDENTS.

Four accidents were reported during the year as follows:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Minor damage to wrist while driving a fork lift truck | 1 |
| (b) Splashing of Sulphuric Acid into face from fallen carboy | 1 |
| (c) Cut hands caused by broken glass | 2 |

All four accidents occurred at the same premises and a routine inspection by a public health inspector followed. It was considered that inadequate lighting after the hours of darkness may have been a contributory cause in the case of (c) and the occupiers were advised and provided with light meter readings.

PROSECUTIONS.

There have been no prosecutions for non-compliance with the Act during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming pools in the area but proposals for a pool at Soham have reached an advanced stage.

Nine portable pools were in use at schools during the summer months and all head teachers were advised on filtration and chlorination. Most of the pools have a capacity of 8,000 gallons and are fitted with cloth bag filters and liquid chlorine injectors although most teachers found it more convenient to dose by adding dilute hypochlorite from a watering can. It was stressed that a chlorine residual of 1.5 to 2.0 parts per million must be maintained at all times when the pool is in use and reasonable

success was achieved. Eleven samples were taken for bacteriological examination and were satisfactory. Later models are provided with a filter charged with diatomaceous earth. The public health inspectors are equipped with a Lovibond kit which checks for free residual, total residual and pH. The River Lark at Isleham and Burwell Lode are regularly used by swimmers during the summer.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council's full time Rodent Officer continued with the free service to householders and dealt with 404 infestations on various types of premises. The widescale infestation which was apparent during the 1966/1967 winter was checked and special measures had to be taken, including the supply of prepacked ready-mix Warfarin baits, to avoid a repetition. Zinc Phosphide is occasionally used on the refuse dumps but only when it is considered necessary.

Disinfestation and Disinfection.

Advice is given to householders on request and when necessary specimens are sent for laboratory examination. The Council's Rodent Officer dealt with the following complaints:—

Wasps....7 Ants....3 Beetles....1 Flies....2

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

No applications were received for licences to keep pet shops.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

No complaints have been received relating to nuisance from chimneys but it was necessary to serve an informal notice on a tyre merchant in connection with the burning of tyres in the open air. No prior approvals have been requested for new installations although several new oil fired boilers have been provided at schools.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

One householder made complaints about noise emitted from a pneumatic grain conveying plant. Following informal approaches to the owners, hours of operation were limited and noise baffles were fitted. Another resident made complaints about ventilating fans fitted to a pig rearing house which was operated on factory farm principles. The squealing of the pigs throughout the night added to the nuisance but the Council had in mind the fact that the farm had been in operation many years and only one new resident was affected. However, straw bale baffles helped to reduce the fan noise and it is hoped the oil poured on troubled waters will be effective.

Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

There are no premises registered in the area.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963.

There has been no increase in the number of premises licensed for the boarding of animals, one establishment being used for the boarding of up to 25 dogs and one for eight cats.

Planning permission was refused in one case relating to proposed dog boarding kennels but the applicant will be permitted to open a cattery.

Public Conveniences.

Public conveniences have been provided by the Council at Soham, Burwell and Fordham. The Soham conveniences were built about fourteen years ago and they do not match up to those at Fordham and Burwell where fully tiled walls were specified. Unfortunately, vandalism is responsible for frequent damage to the equipment and up to the present this national social problem has not been solved. Plans have been prepared for public conveniences at Isleham.

Nuisance from Piggeries.

Now that the town dweller, looking for pleasant surroundings, has overflowed into the countryside he is indeed often surprised to find that his mortgage security includes an extremely foul smell, accompanied by flies, from a nearby farm which may have been in operation for a century. Planning permission is not required for the erection of piggeries on an existing small holding, with minor limitations, and the Building Regulations call for details of construction, siting, drainage, etc. only. Multiply this, in keeping with modern developments, and we find the farmer hemmed in by modern dwellings and numerous complaints. The Local Authority is bound to take action if a nuisance is created and the farmer may plead he was there first. This develops into an interesting and difficult situation.

Courses.

The Chief Public Health Inspector attended a five day course on "Radiation in Health".

APPENDIX
FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1966 for the
Rural District of Newmarket in the County of Cambridgeshire.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:—

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities (i.e. factories not having mechanical power)	10	15	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (i.e. factories having mechanical power)	57	33	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	67	48	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	4	—	—	—

